

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fuel cell, comprising:

a membrane electrode assembly (MEA) including a polyelectrolyte membrane having first and second sides to which a fuel electrode and an air electrode are joined, respectively;

~~a fuel electrode housing having an internal face on which including a fuel channel and a fuel-side electrode film are formed on an internal face of the fuel electrode housing; and~~

~~an air electrode housing having an air passage formed therein, the air electrode housing having an internal face on which including an air-side electrode film is formed on an internal face of the air electrode housing,~~

wherein:

said fuel electrode housing is joined to said MEA with the internal face thereof facing the fuel electrode of said MEA so that the fuel-side electrode film is electrically connected to the fuel electrode; and

said air electrode housing is joined to said MEA with the internal face thereof facing the air electrode of said MEA so that the air-side electrode film is electrically connected to the air electrode.

2. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film is curved toward a corresponding one of the fuel electrode and the air electrode.

3. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one of the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film projects in a center part thereof.

4. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film is formed by plating an electroless nickel plating undercoat with gold.

5. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film are formed integrally with said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing, respectively, by insert molding.

6. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film are deposited on said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing, respectively.

7. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film are formed on said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing, respectively, by plating.

8. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film are formed on said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing, respectively, by coating.

9. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

a metal member is formed on at least one of the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film so as to be in contact with a corresponding one of the fuel electrode and the air electrode; and

the one of the fuel-side electrode film and the air-side electrode film is electrically connected to the corresponding one of the fuel electrode and the air electrode by the contact of said metal member with the corresponding one of the fuel electrode and the air electrode.

10. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 9, wherein said metal member comprises a plurality of projections.

11. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 9, wherein said metal member comprises a metal mesh.

12. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 9, wherein said metal member comprises a plurality of springs.

13. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a packing provided between an edge part of said fuel electrode housing and an edge part of said air electrode housing,

wherein:

said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing are fastened by a fastening member; and

the edge parts of said fuel electrode housing and the air electrode housing are sealed.

14. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein an edge part of said fuel electrode housing and an edge part of said air electrode housing are sealed by ultrasonic welding.

15. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of vent holes are formed in said air electrode housing so as to penetrate through the air-side electrode film.

16. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel channel of said fuel electrode housing is formed of a plurality of fuel supply channels that are formed by dividing a space that is in contact with the fuel electrode of said MEA.

17. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fuel supply channels have respective openings communicating therewith for receiving fuel.

18. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said fuel electrode housing, said air electrode housing, the fuel-side electrode film, and the air-side electrode film is formed to have a shape including a curved surface.

19. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell is shaped so as to be containable in a vacant space of an apparatus in which the fuel cell is to be mounted.

20. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a fuel reservoir attached to said fuel electrode housing so as to be detachable therefrom.

21. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a metal wire provided between an edge part of said fuel electrode housing and an edge part of said air electrode housing so as to be electrically connected to the fuel-side electrode film, wherein the edge parts of said fuel electrode housing and said air electrode housing are sealed by welding.

22. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 21, wherein the metal wire is employed as an extension electrode.

23. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel channel is formed on the fuel-side electrode film in said fuel electrode housing.

24. (ORIGINAL) A fuel cell stack, comprising:

a plurality of fuel cells as set forth in claim 1,

wherein:

each fuel cell has a first extension electrode electrically connected to the fuel-side electrode film of said fuel electrode housing and exposed therefrom through an opening, and a second extension electrode electrically connected to the air-side electrode film of said air electrode housing and exposed therefrom through an opening; and

the first extension electrode of a first one of the fuel cells is electrically connected by an engagement member to the second extension electrode of a second one of the fuel cells adjacent to the first one of the fuel cells, the engagement member engaging the openings through which the first and second extension electrodes are exposed, respectively.

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